

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) An information distribution device which is connected with a plurality of terminal devices which belong to a group, and a content server storing distribution information via a network using an IP protocol, said information distribution device comprising:

a first storage portion storing terminal device information including addresses each identifying a terminal device belonging to said group, on the network using the IP protocol;

a first receiving portion receiving, from one terminal device belonging to said group, a distribution request including a Uniform Resource Locator as access information, which is required for accessing the distribution information stored in the content server and distribution destination information specifying addresses on the network of other terminal devices than the one terminal device which belong to said group and to which the distribution information is to be distributed;

a second receiving portion accessing said distribution information stored in the content server, based on said access information included in the distribution request received by said first receiving portion from the one terminal device, and receiving the distribution information accessed;

a second storage portion storing said distribution information accessed and received by said second receiving portion;

a first transmitting portion transmitting said distribution information stored in said second storage portion to the other terminal devices according to the distribution destination information;

a third receiving portion receiving a bill of charges from the content server when the distribution information is chargeable; and

a second transmitting portion transmitting said bill of charges received by said third receiving portion either to the one terminal device having transmitted the distribution request or to a telecommunications carrier to which the one terminal device subscribes.

2-4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously Presented) The information distribution device according to claim 1, further comprising a third transmitting portion transmitting notification, to the terminal device which transmitted said distribution request, of the fact that distribution has been completed, after the distribution of said distribution information by said first transmitting portion.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Original) The information distribution device according to claim 1, wherein said distribution request further includes a distribution time for specifying a time for distributing said distribution information, and said first transmitting portion distributes said distribution information at said distribution time.

8. (Original) The information distribution device according to claim 1, wherein said terminal device information stored in said first storage portion includes information for representing an information format displayable on a display portion of the terminal device, and

wherein said information distribution device further comprises a conversion/filtering portion for converting or filtering said distribution information to a format capable of being displayed on a display portion of said terminal device, based on said information for representing said displayable information format.

9. (Original) The information distribution device according to claim 1, wherein said first receiving portion receives said distribution request from said terminal device via another server device.

10. (Original) The information distribution device according to claim 1, wherein said distribution information is either a program including a game program, said program and a license for said program, map information, or product information.

11. (Previously Presented) A terminal device belonging to a group constituted by a plurality of terminal devices, which are connected via a network using an IP protocol to an information distribution device connected via the network to a content server storing distribution information, the terminal device comprising:

a registration portion registering, via said network, terminal information including addresses each identifying a terminal device belonging to said group, on the network using the IP protocol in said information distribution device

a transmitting portion transmitting, to said information distribution device, a distribution request including a Uniform Resource Locator as access information, which is required for accessing the distribution information stored in the content server and distribution destination information specifying addresses on the network of other terminal devices, which belong to said group and to which the distribution information is to be distributed; and

a receiving portion receiving from the information distribution device, a bill of charges for the distribution information which is stored in the content server and which is accessed based on the access information and transmitted to the other terminal devices according to the distribution destination information from the information distribution device, the bill of charges having been sent to the information distribution device from a device billing the charges.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Original) The terminal device according to claim 11, wherein said distribution request further includes a distribution time for specifying a time for distributing said distribution information.

14. (Original) The terminal device according to claim 11, wherein said distribution information is either a program including a game program, said program and a license for said program, map information, or product information.

15. (Previously Presented) An information distribution system having a plurality of terminal devices belonging to a group connected via a network using an IP protocol to an information distribution device and a content server storing distribution information via the network wherein each of said plurality of terminal devices comprise:

a registration portion registering via said network, terminal information including addresses each identifying a terminal device belonging to said group, on the network using the IP protocol in said information distribution device;

a transmitting portion transmitting, to said information distribution device, a distribution request including a Uniform Resource Locator as access information, which is required for accessing the distribution information stored in the content server and distribution destination information specifying addresses on the network of other terminal devices which belong to said group and to which the distribution information is to be distributed; and

a receiving portion receiving from the information distribution device, a bill of charges for the distribution information which is stored in the content server and which is accessed based on the access information and transmitted to the other terminal devices according to the distribution destination information from the information distribution device, the bill of charges having been sent to the information distribution device from a device billing the charges,

and wherein said information distribution device comprises:

a first storage portion storing terminal information including addresses each identifying a terminal device belonging to said group, on the network using the IP protocol registered by said registration portion of said terminal device;

a first receiving portion receiving, from one terminal device belonging to said group, said distribution request including a Uniform Resource Locator as access information, which is required for accessing the distribution information stored in the content server and distribution destination information specifying addresses on the network of other terminal devices than the one terminal device, which are belonging to said group and to be distributed the distribution information, and being transmitted by said transmitting portion;

a second receiving portion accessing said distribution information stored in the content server, based on said access information included in said distribution request received by said first receiving portion, and for receiving said distribution information accessed;

a second storage portion storing said distribution information accessed and received by said second receiving portion;

a first transmitting portion transmitting said distribution information stored in said second storage portion to the other terminal devices according to the distribution destination information;

a third receiving portion receiving a bill of charges from the content server when the distribution information is chargeable; and

a second transmitting portion transmitting said bill of charges received by said third receiving portion either to the one terminal device having transmitted the distribution request or to a telecommunications carrier to which the one terminal device subscribes.

16-17. (Cancelled)

18. (Previously Presented) An information distribution method for an information distribution system having a plurality of terminal devices belonging to a group connected via a network using an IP protocol to an information distribution device, and a content server storing distribution information connected via the network, the method comprising steps of:

by said terminal device, registering, via the network, in said information distribution device, terminal information including addresses each identifying a terminal device belonging to said group;

said terminal device transmitting, to said information distribution device, a distribution request including a Uniform Resource Locator as access information, which is required for accessing the distribution information stored in the content server and distribution destination information specifying addresses on the network of other terminal devices, which belong to said group and to which the distribution information is to be distributed; and

said terminal device receiving from the information distribution device, a bill of charges for the distribution information which is stored in the content server and which is accessed based on the access information and transmitted to the other terminal devices according to the distribution destination information from the information distribution device, the bill of charges having been sent to the information distribution device from a device billing the charges; and

by said information distribution device, storing said terminal device information including addresses each identifying a terminal device belonging said group, on the network using the IP protocol registered by said terminal device;

receiving said distribution request transmitted from said terminal device;

accessing said distribution information stored in the content server, based on said access information included in said received distribution request, and receiving said distribution information accessed; and

transmitting said received distribution information to said terminal device and the other terminal devices.

19-20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) A server to distribute information, comprising:

a communication unit configured to receive a request including access destination information from a first terminal and to distribute information to a plurality of second terminals; and

a processor configured to control the communication unit to access to a content server and obtain the information by using the access destination information upon receiving of the request and to control the communication unit to distribute the information obtained from the content server to the plurality of second terminals ~~including a second terminal~~ without receiving a request to receive the information from any of the plurality of the second terminals ~~terminal~~.

22. (Previously Presented) The server according to claim 21, comprising a storing unit, which stores the information obtained from the content server, wherein the information stored in the storing unit is deleted after completion of the information distribution.

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Previously Presented) The server according to claim 21, wherein the access destination information identifies the content server and indicates data location in the content server.

25. (Currently Amended) An information distribution method, comprising:
receiving a request including access destination information from a first terminal for distributing information to a plurality of second terminals;
accessing to a content server to obtain the information by using the access destination information upon receiving of the request; and
distributing the information obtained from the content server to the plurality of second terminals ~~including a second terminal~~ without receiving a request to receive the information from any of the plurality of the second terminal terminals.

26. (Previously Presented) The information distribution method according to claim 25, further comprising storing the information in a storing unit and deleting the stored information after completion of the information distribution.

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Previously Presented) The information distribution method according to claim 25, wherein the access destination information identifies the content server and indicates data location in the content server.

29. (Currently Amended) A terminal comprising:

a communication unit to transmit a request including access destination information to a server for distributing information to a plurality of other terminals,

wherein the server accesses to a content server to obtain the information by using the access destination information upon receiving of the request and distributes the information obtained from the content server to the plurality of other terminals ~~including a terminal which does not transmit a request to receive the information to the server without receiving a request to receive the information from any of the plurality of the other terminals.~~

30. (Cancelled)

31. (Previously Presented) The terminal according to claim 29, wherein the access destination information identifies the content server and indicates data location in the content server.